Amendments To The Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end, an inflatable balloon disposed on the distal end, a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece, a guiding wire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and an inflation lumen extending from the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon,

wherein the guiding wire lumen comprises a pipe having proximal and distal portions disposed substantially concentrically within the catheter shaft, the proximal portion comprises a more rigid material than the distal portion, and the inflation lumen is defined by an annulus between an exterior of the pipe and an interior surface of the catheter shaft~~; and~~.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 1, wherein the proximal portion comprises a metallic material and the distal portion comprises a plastic material.

5. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1, wherein a transitional portion ~~between~~ comprising the abutting ends of the proximal and distal portions is provided with a kink protection encompassing a part of each of the proximal and distal portions.

6. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection comprises sleeve encasing the transitional portion.

7. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection comprises a metal spring.

8. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter shaft according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection is formed as a metal spring arranged in the inflation/deflation lumen.

9.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 4, wherein the proximal portion is provided with an lubricity-enhancing coating.

14.-20. (canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end including an inflatable balloon and a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece, the catheter shaft comprising a pipe having proximal and distal portions and a solid cross-section except for first and second longitudinally-extending boreholes,

wherein the first and second boreholes extend from the proximal end to the distal end, the first longitudinal borehole defining a guiding wire lumen the second longitudinal borehole

defining an inflation lumen that couples the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon, the proximal portion comprising a material having a greater rigidity than the distal portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 21, wherein the proximal portion comprises a metallic material and the distal portion comprises a plastic.

23. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 21, wherein at least the first borehole in the proximal portion includes a lubricity-enhancing coating.

24. (Previously Presented) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end including an inflatable balloon and a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece, the catheter shaft comprising a pipe having proximal and distal portions and a solid cross-section except for first and second longitudinally-extending boreholes,

wherein the first and second boreholes extend from the proximal end to the distal end, the first borehole defining a guiding wire lumen and the second borehole defining an inflation lumen that couples the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon.

25. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 24, wherein the pipe comprises a metallic material.

26. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter according to claim 24, wherein at least the first longitudinal borehole includes a lubricity-enhancing coating.